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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We thank You that You have been our help in decades past and will be our hope for years to come. We pause in Your presence and ask guidance for the men and women of the people's House.

Send Your Spirit of Wisdom as they face this day with difficult decisions to be made, work to be done, burdens to be carried, and life to be lived as best they can.

Keep love's banner floating over all of us as we walk in the way of those who act with justice, love with mercy, and walk with humility before You. Help us to fashion our desires, our duties, and our deeds in accordance with Your will, that we may labor for a better world filled with good people who labor for the well-being of all.

Bless us this day and every day. And may all that is done within the people's House this day be done for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. CHU led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side.

AMERICAN FAMILIES NEED JOBS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this morning's announcement of an increase in the unemployment rate indicates yet again that the President's economic policies are failing American families. The out-of-control spending is killing small business job creation.

Sadly, more than 14 million people are still without jobs, and the average price of gasoline is almost \$4 a gallon. The President pledged to reduce unemployment to 8 percent and failed. He pledged to skyrocket energy costs and he succeeded. This is a failure of leadership on job creation and gas cost. American families are at risk.

Earlier this week, the President asked Congress to increase the debt limit by \$2.4 trillion with no meaningful reforms. Reforms are needed because American families need jobs. The President's request was defeated in a bipartisan vote.

House Republicans presented the "Cut and Grow" congressional plan. It's a commonsense plan: first cut spending, then the economy will grow. That's how to create jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

REPUBLICAN PLAN TO END MEDICARE

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are trying to sell America's seniors a false bill of goods. Republicans claim that seniors won't be impacted by their plan to end Medicare. That simply isn't true.

What's true is that insurance bureaucrats will be placed in between seniors and their doctors. What's true is that a senior in my State of California will be forced to pay \$6,000 extra in out-of-pocket expenses; then, once the Republican plan to end Medicare takes full effect, those out-of-pocket expenses will double. Imagine our seniors being turned away at the pharmacy. Imagine seniors having to reach deeper into their wallet after a doctor's visit.

The GOP plan to end Medicare is unacceptable. We must keep our promises to our seniors.

COMMENDING NORTH DAKOTA VOLUNTEERS

(Mr. BERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the countless volunteers who have given time and resources in the wake of unprecedented flooding.

As thousands of North Dakotans fight to protect their homes and communities, North Dakotans have come together to fill sandbags, to help those in need, providing food for volunteers and shelter for those who have been displaced by flooding.

This has truly been a team effort, working together with Senator CONRAD and Senator HOEVEN, Governor Dalrymple, mayors and Federal officials to ensure that North Dakota receives the vital support to fight this

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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flood and rebuild as soon as the flood is over.

I commend State and local officials and the North Dakota National Guard for the tremendous work that they have done, working tirelessly to prepare for this flood and quickly responding to those who need help, and most importantly, to the tens of thousands of volunteers who embody North Dakota's spirit and show that in times of hardship that they will pull together and get the job done.

Again, I thank all the volunteers, and our hearts go out to those who are fighting the flood.

DON'T END MEDICARE

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, my constituents are wondering when the House majority will hear their cries: Don't end Medicare. In fact, a recent CNN poll showed opposition to the Road to Ruin budget that ends Medicare, with the highest amongst those being senior citizens at 74 percent opposed to the plan.

In addition, the voters in the 26th Congressional District of New York recently made their voices heard when they elected Representative KATHY HOCHUL to be the newest Member of Congress. Their top concern was that the Republican budget threatens to end Medicare. They know that under the plan, anyone under the age of 55 will be forced to save an extra \$182,000 just to pay for their future health care costs in retirements. That number rises to a startling \$400,000 for those in their thirties. These statistics are even more astounding when you consider the billions of dollars in tax breaks Republicans have given away to our country's wealthiest individuals as well as Big Oil companies.

Enough is enough. If Republicans are serious about protecting our Nation's seniors, they would work with us to strengthen Medicare, not end it.

□ 0910

THE PLAN TO END MEDICARE

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, Republicans are doubling down on their plan to end Medicare, voting this week for a second time on their Road to Ruin budget that ends Medicare. Republicans instead should listen to the will of the people, who overwhelmingly oppose their Medicare plans, and instead work in a bipartisan way to address deficits and strengthen Medicare.

The Republican budget more than doubles costs for future generations and puts insurance companies back in charge. According to the CBO, in 2022 the average senior will see their costs

increase by more than \$6,000, and the Republican budget also cuts benefits for today's seniors. It reopens the prescription drug doughnut hole, increasing costs for the estimated 4 million seniors who fall into the coverage gap by as much as \$44 billion over the next decade, including \$2.2 billion in 2012 alone. It also increases costs for preventive care and eliminates the annual wellness benefit.

The Republican budget has the wrong priorities and makes the wrong choices for seniors and middle class families.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 292, REGARDING DEPLOYMENT OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES IN LIBYA, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 51, LIBYA WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 294 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 294

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 292) declaring that the President shall not deploy, establish, or maintain the presence of units and members of the United States Armed Forces on the ground in Libya, and for other purposes. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution to its adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate, with 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services.

SEC. 2. Upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 51) directing the President, pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, to remove the United States Armed Forces from Libya, if called up by the chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs or her designee. The concurrent resolution shall be considered as read. The concurrent resolution shall be debatable for one hour, with 30 minutes controlled by Representative Ros-Lehtinen of Florida or her designee and 30 minutes controlled by Representative Kucinich of Ohio or his designee. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution to its adoption without intervening motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). The gentleman from South Carolina is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. For the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. House Resolution 294 provides for a closed rule for consideration of two measures, House Concurrent Resolution 51 and House Resolution 292.

This rule allows for the consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 51, consistent with the War Powers Act, and provides for an alternative measure introduced by the Speaker of the House. I support the Speaker's resolution and the ability to have up-or-down votes on both resolutions.

This approach is consistent with the Speaker's and our conference's goal of a more open and transparent process, allowing the House to work its will on both resolutions. Members can vote for one of the resolutions, both of the resolutions, or neither of them.

The underlying legislation addresses the administration's actions in Libya. Mr. Speaker, on March 19, 2011, President Obama ordered U.S. military intervention in Libya as a part of a multinational coalition. Well over 60 days later—let me say that one more time—over 60 days later the President has still not asked for, nor has he received, authorization from Congress to commit troops to such action.

Mr. Speaker, article I of our Constitution states that Congress, and only Congress, has the power to declare war. This point was made best in 2007 by then-Senator Barack Obama, who said: "The President does not have power under the Constitution to unilaterally authorize a military attack in a situation that does not involve stopping an actual or imminent threat to the Nation."

Just in case we missed that, the current President got it right in 2007 when he was a Senator. I want to quote him one more time. He said that "the President does not have power under the Constitution to unilaterally authorize a military attack in a situation that does not involve stopping an actual or imminent threat to the Nation."

While the United States must play offense in the war on terror, and we should not have to wait for threats to materialize before acting. It is not clear, it is simply not clear that Libya posed a threat to our Nation that justified the use of troops, the United States' troops.

It is undeniable that Qadhafi is one of the most notorious terrorists of our time, and the world will be a better place when he is gone. But at the same time, there is no shortage of dictators who should be removed from power. Syria's Assad is butchering his own people as we speak. Iran, under Ahmadinejad, sponsors terrorism around the world, he persecutes religious minorities, and is working to develop a nuclear bomb.